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Attorney Ref. No. 659-1143

Client Ref. No. 19,226

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 16, 30 and 31 without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 5, 10, 14 and 32 so that the claims read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a disposable undergarment comprising:

moving a web of body panel material in a longitudinal machine direction, said web of body panel material having first and second spaced apart outer edges;

forming a cutout in said web and thereby removing a portion of said body panel material from said web;

cutting said web of body panel material along said longitudinal machine direction and thereby forming a rear body panel web and a front body panel web, wherein said cutting said web of body panel material comprises forming first and second cut edges on said front and rear body panel webs, wherein said removed portion of said body panel material does not form any part of said front and rear body panel webs, and wherein said cutout extends from at least one of said first and second cut edges toward a respective one of said first and second outer edges; and

connecting a crotch member to each of said rear and front body panel webs, wherein said crotch member covers an entirety of said cutout, wherein said crotch member comprises an elastic material.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cutting said web comprises cutting said web such that said cutout is formed entirely in one of said front and rear body panel webs.

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3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said cutting said web comprises cutting said web such that a portion of said cutout is formed in each of said front and rear body panel webs.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said cutout has a substantially circular shape.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a disposable undergarment comprising:

moving a web of body panel material in a longitudinal machine direction, said web of body panel material having first and second spaced apart outer edges;

forming a cutout in said web and thereby removing a portion of said body panel material from said web. ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein said cutout has a substantially oval shape;

cutting said web of body panel material along said longitudinal machine direction and thereby forming a rear body panel web and a front body panel web, wherein said cutting said web of body panel material comprises forming first and second cut edges on said front and rear body panel webs, wherein said removed portion of said body panel material does not form any part of said front and rear body panel webs, and wherein said cutout extends from at least one of said first and second cut edges toward a respective one of said first and second outer edges; and

connecting a crotch member to each of said rear and front body panel webs, wherein said crotch member covers an entirety of said cutout.

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6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said first and second cut edges are non-linear.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first and second cut edges are substantially linear.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said web has a body side surface and a garment side surface, and wherein said connecting said crotch member to each of said front and rear body panel webs comprises connecting said crotch member to said garment side surface of each of said front and rear body panel webs.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said web has a body side surface and a garment side surface, and wherein said connecting said crotch member to each of said front and rear body panel webs comprises connecting said crotch member to said body side surface of each of said front and rear body panel webs.

10. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim 1 further comprising manufacturing a disposable undergarment comprising:

~~moving a web of body panel material in a longitudinal machine direction;~~

stretching said web in said longitudinal machine direction to a stretched condition prior to said forming said ; ~~forming a~~ cutout in said web and forming said cutout in said web while said web is in said stretched condition;

~~cutting said web of body panel material along said longitudinal machine direction and thereby forming a rear body panel web and a front body panel web; and~~

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~~connecting a crotch member to each of said rear and front body panel webs, wherein said crotch member covers said cutout.~~

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said forming said cutout and cutting said web of body panel material along said longitudinal machine direction are done simultaneously with a single cutting device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising separating said front and rear body panel webs prior to connecting said crotch member thereto.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said crotch member comprises a top sheet, a back sheet and a retention portion disposed between said top sheet and said back sheet.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a disposable undergarment comprising:

moving a web of body panel material in a longitudinal machine direction, said web of body panel material having first and second spaced apart outer edges;

forming a cutout in said web and thereby removing a portion of said body panel material from said web;

cutting said web of body panel material along said longitudinal machine direction and thereby forming a rear body panel web and a front body panel web, wherein said cutting said web of body panel material comprises forming first and second cut edges on said front and rear body panel webs, wherein said removed

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portion of said body panel material does not form any part of said front and rear body panel webs, and wherein said cutout extends from at least one of said first and second cut edges toward a respective one of said first and second outer edges;

connecting a crotch member to each of said rear and front body panel webs, wherein said crotch member covers an entirety of said cutout; and

~~The method of claim 1 further comprising~~ stretching at least one of said front and rear body panel webs to a stretched condition prior to said connecting said crotch member thereto and connecting said crotch member to said at least one of said front and rear body panel webs when in said stretched condition.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said crotch member comprises at least one fold, wherein said connecting said crotch member to said front and rear body panel webs comprises connecting said at least one fold to said front and rear body panel webs.

Claims 16-31 (Cancelled).

32. (Original) A method of manufacturing a disposable undergarment comprising:

moving a web of body panel material in a longitudinal machine direction, said web of body panel material having first and second spaced apart outer edges;

forming a cutout in said web and thereby removing a portion of said body panel material from said web;

cutting said web of body panel material along said longitudinal machine direction and thereby forming a rear body panel web and a front body panel

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web, wherein said cutting said web of body panel material comprises forming first and second cut edges on said front and rear body panel webs, wherein said removed portion of said body panel material does not form any part of said front and rear body panel webs, and wherein said cutout extends from at least one of said first and second cut edges toward a respective one of said first and second outer edges, and The method of claim 1 wherein said cutting said web of body panel material is performed separately from and after said forming said cutout in said web; and
connecting a crotch member to each of said rear and front body panel webs, wherein said crotch member covers an entirety of said cutout.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said cutting said web of body panel material is performed separately from and before said forming said cutout in said web.